

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COM CONFERENCE

FOR AF/EX MR. KRYZA

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MS. DERIAN'S PRESENTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS DURING COM CONFERENCE.
2. MS. DERIAN SAID THAT THE EFFORT TO GET OTHER NATIONS TO RESPECT AND ADHERE TO THE UN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS ONE OF THE CHIEF COMPONENTS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY. THIS IS NOT A NEW DEPARTURE, BUT REPRESENTS A RETURN TO TRADITIONAL U.S. VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS. NO QUID PRO QUO (MORE AID FOR MORE FREEDOM) IS TO BE OFFERED, AND THE POLICY IS NOT TO BE SEEN AS A FACTOR IN U.S.-SOVIET RIVALRY IN THE THIRD WORLD. IT RATHER REFLECTS FUNDAMENTAL U.S. BELIEFS AND WILL BE CONSIDERED IN RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE.
3. MS. DERIAN DISCUSSED THE THREE AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, NOTING THAT ALL WERE OF PRIORITY INTEREST. A) RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS IN A STATE: AGAINST ARBITRARY ARREST, ILLEGAL IMPRISONMENT, OR TORTURE. THIS MAY BE SEEN AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT MS. DERIAN SAID THAT COUNTRIES HAVE THE RIGHT AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMENT ON HOW HUMAN RIGHTS ARE TREATED ANYWHERE. B) BASIC RIGHTS IN THE ECONOMIC SENSE -- ENOUGH TO EAT, JOBS, HEALTH AND HOUSING. C) CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND THE RIGHT TO OPPOSITION OR DISSENT IN AN INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT.
4. U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WOULD DEAL WITH COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY, SPEAKING TO THE LEADERSHIP AND STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE THE

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U.S. ATTACHES TO HUMAN RIGHTS. CONTRARY TO TRADITIONAL WISDOM, MS. DERIAN HAD FOUND THAT COUNTRIES WOULD DISCUSS THESE MATTERS AND GOVERNMENTS WERE SENSITIVE TO WORLD OPINION AND CRITICISM. THERE MIGHT BE NO QUICK REACTIONS, OR PRECISE MEASURE OF RESULTS, BUT EFFORTS OVER THE LONG RUN WOULD PROVE EFFECTIVE.

5. CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN IS EVIDENT (THE HARKIN AMENDMENT), AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO OVERCOME DISTRUST BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE HILL. CONGRESS IS NOT BEING NAIVE, BUT RESPONSIVE TO BASIC BELIEFS OF ITS CONSTITUENTS.

6. MS. DERIAN DESCRIBED THE DEPARTMENT'S ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS DEALS WITH REFUGEE AND MIGRATION PROGRAMS, AND INCLUDES THE VIETNAM POW AND MIA ISSUES. THE OFFICE INCLUDES THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM, MILITARY LICENSING (WORKING WITH DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY BENSON), AND IS REPRESENTED ON THE INTERAGENCY HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATING GROUP, CHAIRED BY UNDERSECRETARY CHRISTOPHER.

7. SEVERAL AMBASSADORS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT STRESSING CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS IN AFRICA. AFRICAN STATES ARE STILL IN A FORMATIVE STAGE, DIVIDED BY TRIBAL AND HISTORICAL TRADITIONS. ACTIVE CIVIL OPPOSITION COULD DETER NATION BUILDING AND PROMOTE CIVIL STRIFE. MS. DERIAN REPLIED THAT THE U.S. MUST ENCOURAGE AND NURTURE CIVIL LIBERTIES EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF FORMAL GOVERNMENT APPROACHES. AMBASSADOR YOUNG NOTED THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FELT AN OBLIGATION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS, AND A REVULSION AT CONTRIBUTING TO ASSISTANCE TO REPRESSIVE REGIMES. THESE ARE FORCES THE ADMINISTRATION MUST RECOGNIZE.

8. THERE WERE SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. WAS THIS CONTRARY TO OUR OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF IFI'S FOR POLITICAL ENDS? MS. DERIAN REPLIED THAT FACTORING AN ATTITUDE TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS INTO U.S. DECISIONS IN IFI'S WAS NOT NECESSARILY "POLITICIZATION." THE HARKIN AMENDMENT COULD BE USEFULLY APPLIED, BUT ONLY IF EMBASSIES PROVIDED AN ADEQUATE DATA BASE TO JUSTIFY POSITIONS TAKEN IN IFI'S TO THE CONGRESS.

9. THERE WAS GENERAL PRAISE FOR THE SECRETARY'S RECENT STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

MS. DERIAN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT EMBASSIES AND USIS SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE U.S. POSITION WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

STEARNS

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